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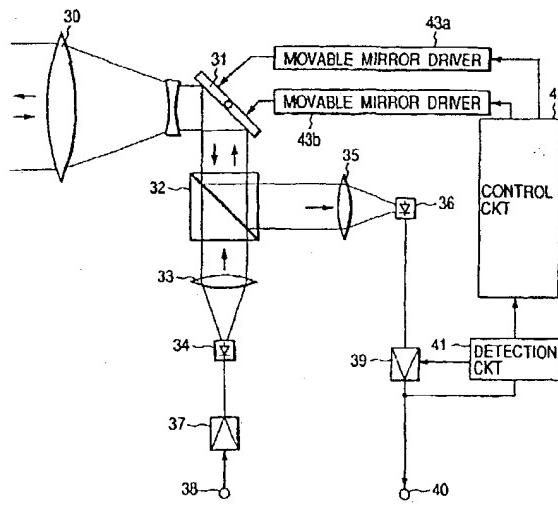
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(54) Optical space communication apparatus

(57) In an optical space communication apparatus, a first electrical signal is converted into a first optical signal, and the first optical signal is transmitted to a partner apparatus in the form of a first light beam. A second light beam transmitted from the partner apparatus is received to thereby detect a second optical signal by a photode-

tector of the optical space communication apparatus. The second optical signal is converted into a second electrical signal. A transmission direction of the first light beam and reception direction of the second light beam are changed in a direction to maximize an intensity of the second electrical signal obtained by converting the second optical signal detected by the photodetector.

FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 12 0009

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	US 3 566 126 A (LANG KENNETH T ET AL) 23 February 1971 (1971-02-23) * column 1, line 36 – line 48 * * column 2, line 38 – line 57 * * figure 2 *	1,6,8	H04B10/10
X	EP 0 653 852 A (CANON KK) 17 May 1995 (1995-05-17) * column 5, line 40 – column 6, line 4 * * column 7, line 55 – column 8, line 13 * * column 8, line 54 – column 9, line 13 * * figures 3,5 *	1-3,6,8	
X	US 5 329 395 A (ENDO KAZUO ET AL) 12 July 1994 (1994-07-12) * column 4, line 41 – line 66 * * figures 1,3,4,6,9,10 *	1,2,6,8	
X	US 5 065 455 A (SUZUKI KOJI ET AL) 12 November 1991 (1991-11-12) * abstract * * column 8, line 50 – line 65 * * column 10, line 10 – line 29 * * figure 4 *	1,4,5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.) H04B
X	EP 0 658 987 A (CANON KK) 21 June 1995 (1995-06-21) * column 3, line 12 – line 42 * * column 4, line 48 – column 5, line 7 * * figures 3,8 *	1,7	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 31 July 2003	Examiner Masche, C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background D : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-3,6,8

reception angle tracking by directional scanning with
movable mirror

2. Claims: 4,5

variation of angular tracking range by motorized de/focussing

3. Claim : 7

reception angle tracking using acceleration detectors

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82